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of writing the name, *Sanguinaria Canadensis*. The last word should be written with a small letter, i. e., *Sanguinaria canadensis*. Proper adjectives at least of places are not capitalized in Latin. Why the rule should have been interpreted thus for specific names of persons does not seem clear. As the breaches of rule seem to be made by botanists not apparently in sympathy with the Vienna Code and its demands in general, it would appear that occasion is made to show this want of sympathy in the case in question. We are expected to write the names *Lisimachia Hemsleyi*, *Asplenium Andrewsii*, *Cenchrus Palmeri* not because the Vienna Code or any other botanical code demands it, but for the same reason that we are supposed in English to write the man's name John Smith with capitals. It is required by the dictates of correct grammar. Even the older botanists, well versed in Latin as they usually were, have always written adjective local names decapitalized, and likewise have written personal names as nouns in the genitive with capital letters. Of course it is possible through the blundering example of some to carry the abuse to the contrary so far that it may come to be a custom in America or even elsewhere, but it will, by competent or educated people at least, be relegated to the same class of customs as that of using a singular verb in connection with a plural subject. In fact misuse of principles that ought to be familiar to every high school student of Latin can scarcely result in much credit to our modern phytography.

Obituary.

THE TWO HOWELLS, BOTANISTS.—In the death of Thomas Howell, which occurred at Portland, Oregon, on the third of December, 1912, there passed from this life one of the most remarkable men who has had part in the making of West North American botany. Mr. Howell was born in Missouri, 9 Oct., 1842, and was therefore only some weeks past seventy years of age. It was as a boy of eight years that he entered the country of the Far Northwest in 1850; his parents, with their several children, having traversed the wide wilderness between Missouri and Oregon, by ox team at that early period.

Well though the name of Howell is known in botany, I have no information as to just when, or under what influence his at-

tention was drawn to the study of plants, and the collecting of specimens; but from about 1880 forward he, and for a time his brother Joseph made extensive collections in many parts of Oregon, their labors being rewarded by the discovery of many new species. These rich accessions to the Northwestern flora were published by Engelmann, by Gray, by Watson, and many of the later by myself; though still later a great number were presented in Mr. Howell's monumental Flora by himself.

That which is most peculiar and noteworthy about Mr. Howell's career is, that he accomplished the greatest amount of meritorious and valuable scientific work that was ever done by any man of any epoch, on so very rudimentary an education in letters. I am informed by Mr. Howell's and my own very valued friend, Mr. M. W. Gorman of Portland, that this man's educational opportunities were limited to six months attendance at log school house on Sauvier's Island in his boyhood as a pioneer. The correspondents of Mr. Howell all must have noted that his handwriting always was like that of some child of four or five years, first learning to form letters and connecting them into words; nevertheless, as to spelling, and grammar in general, the lapses were rather few.

Respecting Mr. Howell's abilities as a botanist I had always a very high opinion, but the indications of these, as well as the fuller account of his career, must await further study.

Mr. Joseph Howell, a brother of Thomas, and his senior by something like a dozen years, had been claimed by death only a few weeks earlier. He died, so Mr. Gorman informs me, at Sauvier's Island, 7 October, in his eighty-third year. The interest of both had at first been engaged in botanical exploration and research; but the elder of the two, having a family to provide for, soon withdrew from that pleasant scientific avocation which took up much time, and brought no emolument; and this one, at his recent death left his family in comfortable circumstances; but not so the other, who had given the best of his life to botany, and then died penniless.

Most readers of the work of Thomas Howell naturally attribute to him all the species bearing the Howell name; but this will not be quite correct; and I gladly present here Mr. Gorman's manuscript list of plants the discovery of which was due to the labors of the elder brother, Joseph Howell.

- Isoetes Howellii*, Engelm. June, 1885.
Triteleia Howellii (Wats.) June, 1878.
Montia Howellii Wats. April, 1881.
Saxifraga Howellii, Greene, April, 1891.
Astragalus conjunctus, Wats. May, 1880.
Astragalus Hoodianus, Howell. June, 1883.
Epilobium Hammondi, Howell. Aug. 1888.
Velaea glauca, C. & R. April, 1889.
Coelopleurum longipes, C. & R. 1891.
Gentiana Orfordii, Howell, Oct. 1892. (Edward L. Greene.)
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Michigan Bird Life.

Professor Walter Bradford Barrows has placed every student of birds in our country under lasting obligations for his very complete work entitled "Michigan Bird Life." With the painstaking care that only a true lover of birds can show, he has written biographies of our birds that are very satisfactory to the observer of bird life. His own extensive observations and a very wide reading of books on ornithology, with a pleasing style, have made an excellent reference book on this branch of natural history.

The introduction to the book is a very valuable paper covering the following topics:—Climate, Distribution of Plant Life, Distribution of Animal Life, Bird Life in Michigan, Recent Changes in Bird Life, How To Study Birds, Migration. The body of the book has two divisions: Water Birds and Land Birds.

Professor Barrow's description of his work is as follows:

"Special Bulletin of the Zoological Department of the Michigan Agricultural College. Just Published. 822 pages, 70 uncolored plates and 152 text figures. Weight about 4 lbs. Contains full descriptions of all birds found in the state, with an account of the migration, food, song, nest, eggs and general habits of each species. This bulletin can not be distributed gratis but will be supplied at actual cost plus transportation. It is sold at the College for 45 cents, in paper covers, or 60 cents, bound in cloth; transportation 35 cents additional and must be prepaid.

Applications should be sent to Secretary A. M. Brown, East Lansing, to whom all checks, drafts, and money orders should be made payable. Please do not send stamps."